

THE FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY

● A SEMESTER CHECKLIST ●

BRIEF ANSWERS TO SOME OF YOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THE SEMESTER SYSTEM

● HOW DOES A SEMESTER COMPARE TO A QUARTER? ●

The academic year is comprised of 30 weeks of instruction (excluding registration and final exams). That period can be divided into three 10-week sessions called quarters or two 15-week sessions called semesters. Thus, 2 semester hour credits is equal to 3 quarter hour credits, and that ratio -- $2/3$ -- is the principal conversion factor in moving from the quarter system to the semester system. For example, on the quarter system we require 180 credit hours for graduation; on the semester system we will require $2/3 \times 180 = 120$ hours.

● WILL CONVERSION EFFECT MY GPA? OR MY GRADUATION DATE? ●

Your GPA will not change; consider the following example of conversion of your records:

If on the quarter system you \longrightarrow 75 quarter hours & 240 quality points = 3.2 GPA have earned:

Then, on the semester system you \longrightarrow 50 semester hours & 160 quality points = 3.2 GPA will have earned:

As regards graduation date, no student should lose any time in pursuit of a degree unless he or she elects a new program with additional major or degree requirements.

● WHAT WILL CLASSES AND COURSE LOADS BE LIKE ON THE SEMESTER? ●

The typical class on the semester system is 3 credit hours, and a typical course load will be 5 courses for 15 credit hours. Minimum full-time load (12 semester hours) and maximum full-time load (18 semester hours) do not change. Underload and overload permits will work in the same manner as on the quarter system.

Class periods between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. will be just the same -- 50 minutes -- and 15 minutes between classes. At 2:30 p.m. each day, we will shift to 75 minute classes such that a 3 credit course can be taught on Monday and Wednesday or Tuesday and Thursday. These courses will not meet on Friday after 2:30 p.m.

● WHAT ABOUT CHANGES IN REGISTRATION AND RELATED ACTIVITIES? ●

The procedures for registration, drop/add, and financial aid distribution will be the same under the semester system. For specific dates and deadlines, see the calendar of important dates (below), the 1981-82 Catalog, and the Fall Schedule of Classes, both of which will be available in late June.

*** IMPORTANT DATES *** FALL SEMESTER 1981 ***

Registration (No Schedule Pick-Up).....	July 30, 31
Dormitories Open.....	August 23
Registration.....	August 25, 26
Schedule Pick-Up (All Students).....	August 28, 29
Drop/Add.....	August 28, 29, 31, September 1, 2
FIRST DAY OF CLASSES.....	August 31
Last Day of Classes.....	December 11
Final Examinations.....	December 12, 14-18
ORANGE BOWL.....	January 1
Spring Semester (First Day of Class).....	January 11

WHAT ABOUT ALL OF THE CHANGES IN LIBERAL STUDIES,
MAJOR REQUIREMENTS, AND DEGREE REQUIREMENTS?

During this past year, the faculties of our Departments, Schools, and Colleges have undertaken a thorough review of the course offerings, major requirements, and degree requirements in preparation for the semester system. The changes resulting from that review cannot be covered in this brief paper. Until the new Catalog and Fall Schedule of Classes are available (late June) and the Semester Conversion Handbook (mid-July), you should direct your questions about requirements to:

Basic Studies Office - For questions about Liberal Studies.
Dean's Office - For questions about degree requirements.
Faculty Advisor - For questions about major requirements.

IMPORTANT RELATED POLICIES

- You will be able to graduate under current course requirements rather than new ones, if you prefer.
- If a currently required course is no longer to be taught on the semester system, an equivalent semester course will be designated to meet that requirement.
- A revised Retention Table for the semester system will be approved prior to the end of the Spring Quarter.

● HOW WILL ACADEMIC RULES BE AFFECTED? ●

No significant changes were made in the academic regulations of the University except as relate to deadlines and credit hour requirements adjusted for the semester system.

- A. Some regulations are unchanged...such as minimum and maximum full-time course loads (12 and 18 semester hours).
- B. Some are converted exactly (by 2/3)...
e.g., Baccalaureate degrees - 120 semester hours (180 quarter hours)
CLEP credit - 30 semester hours (45 quarter hours)
- C. Some few are not converted exactly...
Summer attendance requirement...9 semester hours (15 quarter hours)
Upper division status...52 semester hours (75 quarter hours)

It will be particularly important for you to read the appropriate sections of the new Catalog and the Fall Schedule of Classes when they are available.

● IMMEDIATE AND RECOMMENDED ●

1. If you can complete any course sequences this summer, it would be very worthwhile to do so.
2. Remember, you will need more money up front on the semester system than you did on the quarter system.
3. Get off to a good start, and keep your grades up. Remember, you have fewer terms each year to make up any deficiencies in grade point or to use your two forgiveness courses.
4. Read the new Catalog, the new Fall Schedule of Classes and the Semester Conversion Handbook when they are published and available.
5. REMEMBER, THE FALL SEMESTER BEGINS IN AUGUST.

● SEMESTER CONVERSION HANDBOOK ●

In July, prior to Registration for the Fall Semester, we expect to publish a complete conversion handbook with comparison tables of quarter/semester course offerings, a discussion of the new liberal studies requirements, and a presentation of the guidelines and policies for solving conversion problems.

● HOW ABOUT CHANGES IN FEES AND TUITION COSTS? ●

Increases in fees and tuition for the Fall semester are of two types: (A) Those which are related to inflationary costs (Housing, Health fees) or are mandated by the Legislature (tuition increases are still under consideration), and (B) those which are due to Semester Conversion. These semester related increases do not actually increase your overall costs, but may require that you have more funds available at the beginning of each semester.

For example: A hypothetical \$50 per quarter fee equals \$150 per academic year (3 quarters x \$50). The equivalent \$75 per semester fee still equals \$150 per academic year (2 semesters x \$75), but requires \$25 more in payment at the beginning of each semester.

Of course, if you are receiving financial aid, the amount you receive per semester will increase in like manner. You will receive half of your academic year award each semester, rather than one-third per quarter as it is now distributed.